

WARREN
MAGAZINE

SIX CHILLINGLY ILLUSTRATED HORROR CLASSICS!

VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI
#38

NOW 1974

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POC
\$1.00



THE MUMMY'S
REVENGE



GYPSY
CURSE



LUCKY
STRIKE



SIX BIG STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

VAMPIRELLA



OUT OF THE
NAMELESS CITY



ON LITTLE
CAT FEET



TRICK ON
THE TIDE



OUR COVER
Lost in an underground crypt, VAMPIRELLA
looks herself trapped in a monstrous man's
and beauty of the willing dead. A classic
even printing by the talented Sanjulian.

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VAMPIRELLA

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"Have Jeff Jones draw a VAMPIRELLA story!"

I have never, in all my life as a VAMPI reader, read an issue like #35. Every story, with the exception of one, was good.

Bruce Bazzare's "Relatives" was the worst ever. The cover by Enrich was excellent!

The VAMPIRELLA story this issue was good, even if Jose Ortiz substituted for Jose Gonzalez.

The Fleur story was good this time around; a lot better than the first appearance.

"The Night Ran Red With Gore" ran wild with excitement and mystery right through to the twist ending. Congratulations Carl Wessler and Aurelian for a great yarn. "Pure As Snow," the color supplement, had an excellent story by Jack Butterworth and even more excellent art by Felix Mas!

My favorite story of the issue, however, was "Ravenous" by Fernando Fernandez. I would like very much to see his work in color.

MIKE KAROL
Taunton, Mass.

Congratulations! You've finally found an artist who can draw VAMPIRELLA almost as well as Jose Gonzalez. I'm speaking, of course, of Jose Ortiz. His rendering of our favorite Drakulonne was simply beautiful! Any time Gonzalez wants a vacation, Ortiz work is all right by me.

One gripe, though, about VAMPI: Please don't give her a new infatuation every issue. The guy'll just be killed any way.

TRACI EMAUS
Wayne, N.J.

Some good and some bad in VAMPIRELLA #35. VAMPI's strip, "The Blood Gulper" was terrible. Many of us asked for a change, but not a drop in quality! Who on earth is Jose Ortiz? His art was stale!

As for "Relatives," WOW! Esteban Mareto and Bruce Bazzare were fantastic together. Give us more science fiction.

Fleur is the greatest! Ramon Torrents deserves a medal.

Put Jose Gonzalez back on the VAMPI series and get Frank Frazetta on your covers, then you'll have the hook-end again!

GORDON GOMES
Babtown, Tex.



In recent issues, two characters have been introduced as backup features to the VAMPIRELLA series. Fleur, left, seems to be the most popular co-venture, while the adventures of Pantha appear to be boring most readers.

I would like to contribute my bit to the great Jose Gonzalez debate. KEEP HIM! His VAMPIRELLA is the only true VAMPI. And contrary to some readers' claims, his art has improved. The detail is far out! VAMPI is more beautiful, more sexy, with every issue. Even Gonzalez' handling of monsters has improved... profiting by a movement away from literalism.

John Jacobson and Ramon Torrents should take a bow, themselves, for at last bringing us the first good "back-up" heroine for VAMPI since Amazonia. A kind of female Jack Flash, with her blond hair and light character. She adds a nice mood contrast to VAMPI's deeper, more complex romantic sensibilities. Much of her attractiveness stems from the fact that she is not cast in the kind of restrictive plot situations in which Luana was imprisoned. Nor, thank goodness, is she stunted by having the sort of compulsive motivation imposed upon her that so stiflingly limits Pantha.

By the way, I do hope we've seen the last of the panther girl and the tedious tale of her affliction. God, what monotony! Girl is accosted, becomes cat, kills man, loses clothes, hunts for clothes, is accosted, kills man, etc. etc. Believe me, a little of that goes a long way.

In contrast, Fleur's sense of humor and cavalier approach to life are a wonderful change of pace.

I look forward to seeing lots more of her. Give that girl an Enrich cover. She's earned it.

CLIFF WARREN
Beltsville, Md.

I picked up my first copy of VAMPIRELLA a while ago and I loved it.

The cover was marvelous and the title story was too. I really like Fleur.

I have one suggestion. In "Pure As Snow," the colors were unreal. Please have no more of this type of coloring again!

ERIC RAUSCHKOLE
Glendale, Ariz.

So Frank Frazetta is back! But only for one cover? Surely we can get more. Or maybe an inside story?

Some suggestions have Jeff Jones or Bernie Wrightson draw a VAMPI story. Bring back Luana And have your editors and writers work their tails off so Vampi can once again have as much quality as the NEW CREEPY and EERIE!

JOEL BAILEY
Brooklyn, N.Y.

"The latest in a line of powerful covers by Enrich," is, I feel, an understatement. Enrich's cover on VAMPIRELLA #35 is not only one of the finest things he's ever done, but is also one of the finest covers ever to appear on a Warren magazine. It is certainly a cover to be considered at Warren Awards time.

"The Blood Gulper" is the latest chapter in a series that has declined since Flaxman Low took over as writer. He has spindled, folded and mutilated VAMPI's character beyond recognition. She has emerged as a frilly, empty-headed person. She's lost every vestige of her prior intelligent, compassionate self. Low has utterly ignored the stories of Bill Oubay, T. Casey Brennan, Archie Goodwin, and Steve Englehart, who have followed, more or less, a set pattern of events, each in some way related to the last. All this might be acceptable to new readers of VAMPIRELLA. But to older ones who have followed her from the beginning, it seems a travesty. I suggest that Goodwin return to take over the series. And if that's not possible, sit editor Oubay at a typewriter, and have him breathe life back into our girl.

THOMAS SZEBERENY
Quebec, Canada

This is my first letter to the company that continues to produce the best black and white magazines on the market. Warren Publishing Company's excellence continues to surpass all other company's feeble attempts to reach the top of the graphic-horror field. Warren has always produced the finest products and will undoubtedly continue to do so.

The sensational VAMPIRELLA magazine made its tempestuous debut in September 1969, costing a mere fifty cents. In five years, the whole format has changed... for the better. The price has doubled, but so has the quality! The writing is 100% better than before, and the artwork is at its peak.

The main reason I buy your magazines (VAMPI is my favorite) is because of the superb artwork by artists like Fernando Fernandez, Jose Gonzalez, Ramon Torrents and Rich Corben. I also enjoy the fine cover paintings by Enrich.

In closing, I thank all the staff at Warren for many hours of enjoyment and great satisfaction.

JEFF OOUNG
Oakland, Calif.

"Put Mas on VAMPIRELLA!"

I've just bought issue #35 and felt I should write immediately in defense of Jose Ortiz. When I thumbed through your magazine and found Jose Gonzalez missing, I grumbled all the way back to work. When I settled down to read, however, I saw why and have no objection to the VAMPIRELLA storyline. Let's face it, Jose Gonzalez is the one and only artist as far as VAMPI is concerned, but the man is only human. He needs a vacation like the rest of us. Jose Ortiz is doing his best, but it is hard to satisfy a VAMPIRELLA fan. Many fans don't realize the work, the pressure and the effort that go into each and every issue. The minute something hits them wrong, you're deluged with angry letters. It is hard to do your utmost, then get cut down by those you work to please. So if no one else gets around to it, I just want to thank Jose Ortiz for even trying to take the place of the great Jose Gonzalez.

Many of the newer heroines you've introduced have bombed in my eyes. Fleur, however, is interesting and the storylines for her could be limitless. I hope she'll be here for a long time.

I liked *Pantha* at first. But she turned into a bore. It's getting easy to determine who her next victim is going to be. (Any guy getting involved with *Pantha* is sure to be dead by the end of the story! And by her claws.) By now, with all those identical murders, all in some way connected with *Pantha's* past, and with *Pantha* in the area before changing into panther form, somebody has got to be suspicious. The FBI or a private detective or someone has to start piecing things together, approach her with questions, get her side-tracked from her search for her past, and onto new adventures.

As for the rest of the issue, I think there were too many stories with insane protagonists. Lovers going mad are okay once in a while. But you had two in the same issue. "Pure As Snow" and "Rendezvous" "Pure As Snow" is the first color section I really liked. Your other color sections were too vibrant. But this one was nice.

I'd like to see Felix Mas draw a VAMPIRELLA story. His style is close to Gonzalez's but I think it would be interesting to see each of your artists do an adventure of our heroine, so the fans could compare styles.

WANDA BUTTS
Largo, Fla.

In VAMPIRELLA #35, **Fleam** **Loew** produced a better than usual story for the continuing saga of our heroine. In addition to being an unusual and effective variation on the old Frankenstein theme, "The Blood Guilt" contained an element of genuine suspense. As the story unfolded it was in doubt that VAMPI would be able to clear herself of the killings. It was a superior story, and despite the conspicuous absence of Jose Gonzalez, Jose Ortiz did a more than adequate job on the art.

But I find myself disagreeing with some parts of Brian Caden's letter in that issue. Bringing back the Vase Herings would not limit VAMPI's adventures. With the recent maturing of her personality, Adam and his father could only add to the storyline.

And what's this about VAMPI's "mission" against evil? I think Caden is confused over her well known vendetta against the *Companions of Chaos*. If he flips through back issues, he'll find that it was the *Chaos Cult* that began the feud. They did this by killing Tyler Westrow, the doctor whose surgery once saved VAMPIRELLA's life, and who developed the serum that enabled her to keep her physical need for blood under control.

In the future I would like to see some other aspects of VAMPI's physical powers besides her ability to take both form and her bloodlust. What ever became of her telepathic and hypnotic talents? And what of her abnormally keen senses of hearing and smell? And her strength and reflexes? If she successfully survived on her home planet in an environment so savage that it would have killed a weaker person, she should have at least some advantages on earth. Some of these aspects might make interesting elements in a future story.

All in all, issue #35 was good in terms of art and stories. I'll be looking forward to the next issue.

NORMAN E. OAVISON
Union, N.J.

The spirit of E.C. emerged full blown in the fine tongue-in-cheek (I hope) "Relatives." These aliens shouting "Scuse-Trent" was a nice touch. And Esteban Morato's artistic excellence was much in evidence.

"Pure As Snow" was a nice mood piece, but the color lacked quality. How about more Fleur?

EO O'REILLY
Oxford, Ohio



VAMPIRELLA seems to remain popular with readers, so neither new illustrations her adventures. But some readers prefer the more artistic style of Jose Gonzalez. Here's the action-oriented VAMPI drawn by Jose Ortiz.

UNCLE CREEPY & COUSIN EERIE GET MORE MAIL THAN VAMPIRELLA!

It's true VAMPI may be prettier than Uncle Creepy or Cousin Eerie, but she doesn't get as much mail! She feels unloved! Why not write a vampire today? Send a letter to VAMPI'S SCARLET LETTERS

c/o Warren Publishing Co.
145 East 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016



VAMPIR'S VIOLET

WARREN'S NEWEST ARTIST GONZALO MAYO THE MAN BEHIND A SERIES!



European publications of Tarzan. But I've achieved one of my major ambitions by becoming part of the Warren family of artists."

However comics are not the only thing Gonzalo has illustrated. "At sixteen, I began to work professionally," he claims. "I worked as a staff artist for Panamerican Television. I've done both serious illustrations and simple cartoons for book, magazine and newspaper publishers, both in the Americas and overseas."

Gonzalo cites two reasons for selecting comics as his artistic homeland. "I like to tell stories," he boasts. "That, coupled with fond memories of reading Batman, Captain Marvel and Flash Gordon when I was a child, seemed to point me in only one direction—straight at the comics!"

Besides being an artist whose work is suddenly in great demand, Gonzalo is also a family man. His wife, Jessica, is one of those rare women of delicate beauty. She is even more radiant now that she is expecting her third baby. Gonzalo and his wife have two other children, Edgar and Sandra.



El Cid is coming! In legendary exploits against long-forgotten horrors of the past, the great Spanish hero will make his forthcoming debut in a special issue of EERIE, by Gonzalo Mayo.

REAL HEROES DIE! DON'T THEY?

Superman can't die! Batman is immortal! And if Spiderman ever bites the dust, we'll eat Stan Lee's tongue! That's the trouble with comics today. Every time you pick up the newest action-packed adventures of such-and-such, you know the hero is going to be put through his paces and come out on top! No matter how gloomy his predicament looks on the magazine's cover, comic heroes always emerge unscathed and unchanged. They just don't die! It wouldn't be sound business if they did. Once a comic company kills off a popular hero, they kill the newsstand profits generated by that hero as well. It's simple economics.

That's the way it's always been. But enter the Warren magazines and suddenly things change. Dax the Warrior is left on a battle field with vultures hovering over his still body. Hunter is left to rot among the mutated vegetation of his future world. And a monstrous Child finds eternal peace only by going to Heaven to be with his daddy.

Now, Hunter, Child and Dax are no Superman or Batman. They're Warren heroes. And we like to think of them more as real people than comic book heroes. For a short time they lived. We shared their emotions, their victories, their defeats. And just as they became our friends, we saw their lives snuffed out.

It's tragic. It's sad. And our competitors will tell you it's economically impractical. But Warren heroes sometimes die... just like real heroes. Just like real people. It's something new in comics. And that's what we're here for—to give you something new each issue. Not the same rehashed stories month after month.

But when there's a death, there must be a birth. So, as popular Warren characters are buried, new ones will arise from their graves. For every death, there will be a birth.

This issue, we've given birth to three new series. There are also a few deaths.

THE CREATIVE MAN

KEN KELLY: DOODLING COVER ARTIST!

We at Warren Publishing take pride in presenting the work of some of the finest artists in comics. Unfortunately, our readers see only a limited view of these men's talents; that which fits into the format of our magazines. Like most people, artists have many sides to them. As does their work. This column explores the men behind our magazines of illustrated horror. It probes their projects and dreams, their ideas and ideals. Within this column we'll see art outside the field of horror comics... other sides to the multi-talented Warren illustrators.



There are many sides to Ken Kelly. To his wife and children, he is the stranger who sleeps days and spends his nights slopping up the house with his paints. To his fellow artists, Ken is "that kid over at Warren who's been showing a lot of promise for the past six years!" To the Warren editorial staff, he's Moses trucking from the Mount with a covenant under each arm, just in time to make a deadline.

But to thousands of comic book fans, Ken is the luckiest guy in the world. His art teacher and mentor is the renowned Frank Frazetta.

"Frank's an incredible guy," claims Ken. "Besides being the most talented artist this side of Michelangelo, he's been a great friend, a challenging coach, and unbelievably patient with me. I owe him a lot!" There's another side to Ken Kelly that few people see. In fact, he doesn't like to show anyone—not even his mentor and teacher. He doodles. "I like the human figure," Ken points out. "I could spend days sketching it. In fact, if my family didn't have this bad habit of eating this would be the only type of art I'd do."

Here then is a sample of the type of artwork Ken Kelly enjoys most. He would never allow us to show this to anyone... so we had to steal it from him! Surprise, Ken!



VAMPIRELLA

THE REVELATION THAT VAMPIRELLA WAS *QUEEN CLEOPATRA** IN HER EARLIER INCARNATION, CAN SCARCELY HAVE KNOCKED KEEN STUDENTS OF *THE DRACULONNE* SAGA ALL OF A HEAP WITH SURPRISE! OUR DELECTABLE SHE-VAMPIRE SO CLOSELY RESEMBLES, IN SO MANY DELICIOUS DETAILS, SHE WHOM THE BARD OF AVON CALLED "SERPENT OF OLD NILE" THAT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS FROM THE FIRST...!

THE SAGA
CONTINUES...

SPANNING 2000 YEARS, VAMPIRELLA NOW COMES UP AGAINST A GRISLY RELIC OF
HER PAST...ON A NIGHT OF YAWNING GRAVES...WHEN SHE FALLS VICTIM TO...

THE MUMMY'S REVENGE



* SEE VAMPIRELLA # 36 - VAMPIRE OF THE NILE

STORY: FLAXMAN LORW / ART: JOSE GONZALEZ

IT IS *ROME*. IT IS *NIGHT*.
THE *ETERNAL CITY* IS
BATHED IN MOON-GLOW. THE
SCENT OF JASMINE AND
THE REEK OF THE TURBID
TIBER. THERE IS A LATE-
NIGHT STROLLER....



WHO HE IS IS NOT IMPORTANT.
WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT
HE IS NOT *ALONE*!



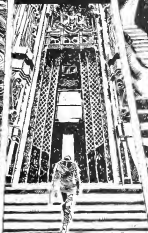
HE DOES NOT *HEAR* THE OTHER'S
APPROACH, BUT A CHARMEL-
HOUSE STENCH OF DECAY
MAKES HIM TURN...



IT IS QUICKLY *OVER*...AND THE
MAN IS FLOATING...*FACE-UP*
IN THE COLD TIBER RIVER....



WRAITH-LIKE IN THE
MOONLIGHT, THE
VISITANT IS SOON
ASCENDING THE STEPS
OF THE MUSEUM OF
ANTIQUITIES...



...TO THE *EGYPTOLOGY* SECTION....!

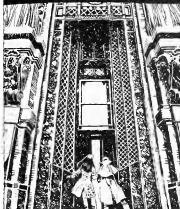




MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY THE DELICIOUS DRAKULONNE AND HER SCOTCH-PICKLED APPENDAGE ARE PLAYING A NIGHT SPOT IN TRASTEVERE... JONES' GREENWICH VILLAGE.



AND SO, NEXT MORNING, A STRANGE COMPUSSION BRINGS VAMPIRELLA AND PENDRAGON TO...



VAMPI!
LET'S
NOT...

NO!
WE'RE GOING
THROUGH
WITH IT!

SHE GAZES DOWN INTO THE DRIED
HUSK OF A FACE...

PTOLEMY...!

DESCENDANT
OF ALEXANDER
THE GREAT...

...RULER OF THE
UPPER AND LOWER
NILE... KING OF
KINGS...

...AND
WELL-KNOWN
VAMPIRE!

FORGIVE ME
FOR TAINTING THE
MEMORY OF ONE OF
YOUR RELATIVES,
MY DEAR!

THOUGH, IN
MY EARLIER
INCARNATION AS
CLEOPATRA* HE WAS
MY BROTHER, HUSBAND
AND CO-RULER, I
REJECTED HIM...
(LITTLE) Y-A-S-?
NOW REJECT HIS
MEMORY!

HE WAS
TOTALLY
EVIL AND
WHOLLY
VILE!

BESIDE THE MUMMY-CASE LIES THE
FUNERARY URN INTO WHICH TWO
THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE, THE
MORTUARY PRIESTS OF THEBES HAD
PLACED THE BRAINS, HEART AND
WISDOM OF THE DEPARTED MONARCH.

HE CAN NEVER HARM ANYONE
AGAIN, PENNY! THE HEART THAT
WE PIERCED WITH THE STAKE WILL
NEVER BEAT AGAIN! PTOLEMY'S
MUMMY IS ONLY THE HUSK OF A
VAMPIRE, WITH NO SPIRIT OR WILL
TO DIRECT IT!

SPEAKING
OF MATTERS
SPIRITUAL...

* SEE VAMPIRELLA #36... "VAMPIRE OF THE NILE"



TWILIGHT NIGHT, AFTER THE SHOW, VAMPIRELLA'S DRESSING ROOM IS A RIOT OF BLOOMS

FROM THE CUTE YOUNG PROFESSOR, RIGHT?

RIGHT, HE WANTS ME TO DINE WITH HIM, AT HIS PLACE... TOMORROW NIGHT!

HOW COULD I RESIST?

THERE'S SOME KIND OF *BOND* BETWEEN US...

I FELT IT RIGHT FROM THE FIRST...

...AND I KNOW BRUNO FELT IT TOO!

BRUNO VERDI HAS A RITZY PENTHOUSE APARTMENT OFF THE VA VENETO.

YOU CAME.

YOU KNEW I WOULD.

DINNER IS A PROTRACTED BALANCE OF SENSUALITY... LIGHTLY VENERED WITH SAV-LL-TALK.

YOU WERE GOING TO BE MY GUIDE TO THE ANTIQUITIES OF ROME... BUT ALL YOU DO IS FEED ME CHAMPAGNE AND COMPLIMENTS.

YOU SHALL SEE THE ANTIQUITIES VAMPIRELLA TONIGHT NOW

BRUNO DRIVES HER TO A DARK STREET IN TRASTEVERE. THERE IS AN ANCIENT DOORWAY SET IN A MOULDERING WALL. HE UNLOCKS THE DOOR. IT CREAKS OPEN.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

THIS, MY DEAR, IS THE ENTRANCE TO ONE OF ROME'S LEGENDARY CATACOMBS. BENEATH THE ETERNAL CITY THERE IS ANOTHER CITY... THE ABODE OF THE ANCIENT DEAD!



KEEP CLOSE TO ME, VAMPIRELLA. I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE PLACE, BUT IF WE PARTED COMPANY... YOU COULD BE LOST FOREVER IN THIS LABYRINTH!



REGARD THE COFFINS OF THE ANCIENT DEAD. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE MORE CORPSES BURIED IN THE CATACOMBS OF ROME THAN THERE ARE PEOPLE ALIVE IN ALL EUROPE.



SOME TIME LATER... AFTER MANY DEVIOUS TURNS... VAMPIRELLA'S ATTENTION IS DISTRACTED...

BRUNO. LOOK... A BABY'S COFFIN. POOR LITTLE ANTE. TO HAVE DIED SO YOUNG ALL THOSE CENTURIES AGO...

BRUNO...



BRUNO!

BRUNO...! WHERE ARE YOU...?

BRUNO!



BRUNO!...

DONT LEAVE ME HERE!

SUDDENLY VAMPIRELLA
SENSES... THEN SMELLS...
AND FINALLY SEES...

PTOLEMY!
N-NO... IT CAN'T BE...
Y-YOU'RE DEAD!



IT STALKS... STAGGERING FORWARD...
ARMS REACHING FOR THE
LUSCIOUS VAMPIRESS...



...AND VAMPIRELLA CAN ONLY RUN!



BUT RUN TO WHERE? SHE STOPS... THEN SEES
THEM... MORE OF THE WALKING DEAD
RISING FROM THEIR CRYPTS...

N-NO!



...COMING FOR HER!

IT'S A
NIGHTMARE!



THE HELLISH CORPSES CLOSE
IN... CLIPPING... RENDING...
TEARING...



...AND THEN, SHE IS
CORNERED...



...AND SUDDENLY BATHED IN AN
OTHER-WORLDLY LIGHT...



...THE LIGHT OF AMUN-RA, THE
RAM-HEADED SUN-GOD OF ANCIENT
EGYPT!



THE AWAKENED DENIZENS OF THE CATACOMBS ARE
BLASTED WITH THE EXPLOSIVE LIGHT OF THE GOD!



A LONG SILENCE STRETCHES AWAY INTO A SEEMING INFINITY OF VOIDED DARKNESS... THEN THE VOICE OF AMUN-RA, COMES TO THE LOVELY DR. KULLONNE LIKE THE BASS CRASH OF A MIGHTY COBAN ON A FORGOTTEN SHORE...

AS ALWAYS, CHILD, YOU FIND FAVOR WITH AMUN-RA! YOUR COUNTENANCE IS TURNED ALWAYS TOWARDS THE SUN, TOWARDS THE WAYS OF LIGHT...!



I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I SAW THE WALKING MUMMY OF PTOLEMY, YET WITH MY OWN HAND I DROVE THE STAKE INTO HIS HEART! THE HEART WAS NOT ONLY PERCED, BUT REMOVED! THE MUMMY WAS ONLY AN EMPTY VESSEL...!

AMUN-RA, HOW COULD IT HAPPEN? NOW?

THE EMPTY VESSEL WAS OCCUPIED BY ANOTHER!



WHO, AMUN-RA? WHO?

A DABBLER IN THE BLACK ARTS! ONE WHO, THROUGH SUCCESSIVE INCARNATIONS, HAS TURNED HIS EYES TOWARDS THE DARKNESS AND HIS FEET ALONG THE LEFT-HAND PATH!



HE POSSESSES THE POTENCY TO ENTER THE EMPTY VESSEL OF THE VAMPIRE MUMMY AND ASSUME THE MANTLE OF VAMPIRISM THAT HE DOES NOT POSSESS IN HIS NORMAL STATE...!

WHILE OCCUPYING THE HUSK OF PTOLEMY, HIS HATRED IS NOT UNNATURALLY DIRECTED AGAINST YOU, WHO DESTROYED PTOLEMY...!

HE HAS POWER, VAMPIRELLA, WITH HIS BLACK ARTS, HE CAN DIRECT THE WRETCHED CORPSES THAT INHABIT THIS CHARNEL HOUSE... BUT, MY CHILD, IN HIS OWN PERSONA, HE IS NOT A VAMPIRE!



HIS NAME, AMUN-RA... HIS NAME?

NEED YOU ASK, MY CHILD?



BRUNO!



THE HAND OF THE GOD GUIDES UMBRELLA FROM THE CATACOMBS. SOON, HER BAT-FORM IS ALIGHTING IN PROFESSOR BRUNO VERO'S VIA VENETO PENTHOUSE.



THE HIGHLY UNSTABLE METABOLISM OF THE DELICIOUS DRAKULONNE HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY MORAL STRESS. BLOOD-LUST HAS QUENCHED ALL HER REFINEMENT OF INTELLECT. SHE HAS REGRESSED TO THE NAKED, SHAMELESS SAE-WAH-WAH THAT ONCE STALKED THE VERDANT BLOOD-VALLEYS OF THE PLANET DRAKULON.



IT IS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH...



BRUNO'S EYES SNAP OPEN...

YOU THOUGHT THAT THOSE GHOULS HAD PICKED MY BONES AND AVENGED LONG-DEAD PTOLEMY, WHOSE EMPTY HUSK YOU HAVE USED FOR YOUR VILE PURPOSES...

YOU!
BUT I
THOUGHT...



...BUT
YOU ARE
WRONG.



EEEEEEENHH!

WARRIELLA QUEENOWES HERSELF, DRAINING THE
VEINS OF HE WHO WAS KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS THE
HANDSOME, SCHOLARLY ANTIQUARIAN. THIS DONE,
SHE SITS BACK AND VIEWS THE *TOTAL DISSOLUTION*
OF HIS CADAVER.



A PITY BRUND
WE COULD HAVE
MADE SWEET
MUSIC TOGETHER.
YOU AND I...BUT
I'VE SET MY FACE
AGAINST DARKNESS
AND THE LEFT-
HAND PATH!

IT IS RECORDED THAT ON THAT SAME INSTANT,
AND BY SOME STRANGE ALCHEMY, THE 2000
YEAR-OLD MUMMY OF PTOLEMY CRUMBLED TO
FRAGMENTS IN THE ROMAN MUSEUM OF
ANTIQUITIES!



SIMILARLY, THE FUNERARY URN
SPUT APART, SPILLING A HAND-
FUL OF *DUST* THAT ONCE COM-
PRISED THE RULER'S *BRAIN'S*,
VISCERA...AND *STAKE-
PIERCED HEART*!



LATER PRINCE/IGON QUESTIONS
HIS GORGEOUS ACCOMPLICE...!



WHATEVER
HAPPENED TO THE
CUTE YOUNG
PROFESSOR?

BRUND?

OH, HIM!

AS A LOVER, HE DIDN'T
HAVE MUCH MILEAGE...

...WENT ALL
TO PIECES!

YOU MIGHT
SAY, I JUST
GOT FED UP
WITH HIM!



MY HUSBAND WAS **COUNT**
BYRON BARAK, A
GENTLEMAN AND A
NOBLEMAN.

1, ON THE OTHER HAND,
WAS NO NOTHING MORE THAN
A **GYPSY PEASANT**.

BYRON AND I HAD BEEN
MARRIED THREE YEARS
WHEN HE **RETURNED** HOME
FROM THE **GREAT WAR**!
MOST OF OUR MARRIED LIFE
HE HAD SPENT ON THE
BATTLEFIELD, **FIGHTING!**

NONETHELESS, I WAS **HAPPY**
TO HAVE HIM HOME AGAIN.
AS HE ENTERED, I HUMBLY
THREW MYSELF AT HIS
FEET!

OH, MY HUSBAND,
IT'S SO GOOD TO
HAVE YOU HOME -
SAFE!

YOU WELCOME
ME WITH A **FALSE**
FACE, WENCH. MY
SERVANT TELLS ME
YOU HAVE BEEN SEEING
ANOTHER MAN
IN MY ABSENCE!

I'VE KNOWN
ABOUT **SANDOR**,
YOUR LOVER, FOR
MONTHS!

Twak!

IT'S A
LIE! SANDOR
CAME HERE BECAUSE
HE IS **POOR** AND
NEEDED **FOOD**. I
GAVE HIM NOTHING
MORE.

I WAS **HORRIFIED!** BYRON
AND I HAD **ARGUED** IN THE
PAST, BUT HE HAD NEVER
STRUCK ME BEFORE! IS
THIS HOW THE **GIFT** OF
WAR **CHANGES** A MAN?

GYPSY CURSE

PERHAPS BYRON HAD SEEN
SO MUCH CRUELTY AND
VIOLENCE THESE PAST
YEARS THAT IT HAD
BECOME PART OF
HIM. PERHAPS TOO
IT HAD ALWAYS
BEEN THERE.
AND I WAS TOO
BLIND TO SEE!
I BROKE OUT
IN TEARS...
MORE AT MY HUSBAND'S
ANGER
THAN MY
OWN HEART...

...AND MY MEMORIES RACED BACK
TO THE PAST... BACK TO A
TIME THREE YEARS AGO,
WHEN I SAW MY HUSBAND
AS A DIFFERENT MAN...
A GENTLE AND LOVING
MAN...

BACK THEN, I WAS NOTHING MORE
THAN A FRIGHTENED CHILD...
THE FORESTS OF RUMAWA!

MARTA,
YOU'RE
SHIVERING!

BYRON WAS MY FIRST LOVE... AND I
VOWED HE WOULD BE MY ONLY LOVE!

ARE YOU
COLD... IS
SOMETHING
THE MATTER?

OH BYRON,
I LOVE YOU
SO... AND
MY MOTHER...
SHE'S TRYING
TO BREAK
US UP!

SHE'S LYING
TO MY FATHER
ABOUT US!

AHA!
SO I LIE,
DO I? WELL,
MY DEAR,
MARTA, I'VE
BROUGHT YOUR
FATHER TO
SEE FOR
HIMSELF!

YOU, A NOBLEMAN,
ALONE IN THE WOODS
WITH A PEASANT
GIRL! HA! I KNOW OF
YOUR INTENTIONS...!

YOU HAVE
SPOILED
MY DAUGHTER...
AND HER
HONOR MUST BE
AVENGED!

TO SEE WHAT
OLD WOMAN?
WE'VE DONE
NOTHING
WRONG!

MY WIFE IS
RIGHT, COUNT!
WE ARE GYPSIES...
BUT OUR HONOR
MEANS MUCH!

YOU
MUST
DIE!



MY FATHER **LEAPED** WITH HIS KNIFE BUT BYRON WAS MORE POWERFUL... MORE SKILLED AT COMBAT. IT WAS OVER **QUICKLY**...AND MY **FATHER** LAY DYING!



MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD LAID THERE, ON THE GROUND, HIS LIFE SLOWLY EBBING AWAY. AND I **WONDERED**...WAS BYRON'S LOVE **WORTH** IT?



MY CHILD, I **FORGIVE** YOU YOU HAVE **MARRIED** ME, BUT YOU ACTED IN **INNOCENCE**, SO I CANNOT **HATE** YOU.

AND YOU COUNT **BARRON** MY DAUGHTER HAS FOUND YOU WORTHY OF HER LOVE, THIS YOU TOO HAVE MY **FORGIVENESS**... BUT BE **WARE**...

...IF YOU SHOULD EVER HURT MY DAUGHTER AS YOU HAVE HURT ME, ALL THE **DEMONS** OF HELL SHALL FEAST UPON YOUR **FLESH**!

YOU WON'T **SEE** THEM... YOU WON'T HEAR THEM **COMING**! BUT THEY WILL **DESTROY** YOU!



MY FATHER HAD **FORGIVEN** ME, BUT MY **MOTHER** AND THE **TRIBAL COUNCIL** WERE NOT SO **GENEROUS**. I WAS **BANISHED** BY MY PEOPLE FOR **LOVING** AN **OUTSIDER**...

FOR A TIME, I REALLY **BELIEVED** THAT BYRON LOVED ME, PERHAPS HE TOO **MISTOOK** HIS **AVATAR** FOR SOMETHING MORE.

IT'S LIKE A **FAIRY-TALE** BYRON - SO **BEAUTIFUL**...SO **HAPPY**! WILL IT **ALWAYS** BE THIS WAY?

FOREVER, MY LOVE.



VAGILE, MY **SERVANT**... PREPARE OUR **BED**!

WE WERE **MARRIED**. A **SMALL** **CEREMONY** IN A **BIG** **CHURCH**, LIKE MY PEOPLE, HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS **SALVAGED** HIM FOR **MARRYING** **BENEATH** HIS **STATION**.



A **YEAR** **PASSED**...AND BYRON GREW **DISTANT**, **RESTLESS**! EVEN THEN, I SEEMED TO **SENSE** A KIND OF **RESENTMENT** FROM HIM, AS THOUGH HE STILL **SAW** ME AS A **CHEAP** **GYPSY** **GIRL**.

I BEGAN TO FEEL A STRANGER
IN MY OWN HOUSE. I LIVED
ALONE, DINED ALONE, SLEPT
ALONE... AND WEPT ALONE.

I STAYED AT SANDOR'S CASTLE
BECAUSE I HAD NOWHERE
ELSE TO GO, BUT I FELT UN-
WELCOME IN MY OWN HOME.

THEN, IN 1916, BYRON WENT
TO WAR... WITHOUT EVEN
TELLING ME!

MY HUSBAND HAD BEEN GONE A MONTH WHEN SANDOR
BUDAI CAME TO MY DOOR, BEGGING FOR FOOD. I WAS
LOVELY... BUT INTIMACY WITH SANDOR NEVER WENT
BEYOND MY IMAGINATION!

SURELY
WE CAN
FIND A
FEW
CRUMBS
FOR A
GYPSY
KINSMAN!

I THANK
YOU,
MADAME!

SANDOR CAME
BACK SEVERAL
TIMES. HE
BECAME A
GOOD
FRIEND!

BUT MY
HUSBAND'S
"FAITHFUL"
SERVANT,
VASILE,
SOUGHT
TO USE
THAT TO
HIS
ADVANTAGE...

VASILE...
WHY DO YOU
STARE AT ME
THAT WAY?

THE STENCH OF ALCOHOL, BEGGING FROM HIS
BREATH WHILE FINALLY MADE HIS PLAY!

YOUR
HUSBAND
WOULD NOT
APPROVE
OF YOUR
GYPSY
LOVER,
COUNTS!

VASILE! WHAT
ARE YOU
IMPLYING?

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT,
I HAVE WATCHED YOU
ALONE IN THIS ROOM. I
HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT
YOUR WARM FLESH... DREAMED
ABOUT CARESSING IT!

OH,
LORD,
NO!

I SUGGEST
YOU BE NICE TO
ME, COUNTS...
OR THE COUNT
WILL FIND OUT OF
YOUR LOVE FOR
SANDOR!

AAAAAAGGH!

EEEEEE

I NEVER LIKED VASILE.
NEVER TRUSTED HIM.
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT
HE WOULD RESORT TO
THIS...

I COULD STAND NO
MORE! I SMASHED
VASILE WHERE IT
HURT HIM MOST...

THE MEMORIES FLEW,
AND I AGAIN SAW MY
HUSBAND BEFORE HE,
NEWLY RETURNED
FROM WAR!



I KNEW NOW WHY
HE HAD HIT ME.
VABLE HAD TOLD
HIM OF SANDOR!

VABLE LIED TO HIM!

VABLE LIED,
DID HE? WHAT
WOULD HE HAVE
TO GAIN BY
LYING?

BUT
YOU,
ON THE
OTHER
HAND...



...I THINK YOU TRIED
TO SEDUCE HIM AS
WELL AS THAT GYPSY
LOVER OF YOURS!

YOU HAVE BETRAYED
ME, MARTA...AND THERE
IS ONLY ONE PUNISHMENT!
FOR AN UNFAITHFUL WIFE!



BYRON WAS LIKE A MADMAN!
WHATEVER VABLE HAD SAID
TO POISON HIS MIND AGAINST
ME MUST HAVE BEEN TRULY
HORRENDOUS...

...OR PERHAPS BYRON WAS WILLING
TO BELIEVE ALMOST ANYTHING.
ANYTHING THAT WOULD JUSTIFY
THE UNWARRANTED HATRED HE
FELT FOR ME.



HE KNOCKED ME
TO THE FLOOR...



...AND LIKE A WILD
ANIMAL, WITH MURD-
EROUS FIRE IN HIS
EYES, HE WAS UPON
ME!



SUDDENLY
BYRON
STOPPED...
AND
LISTENED.
AND OVER MY
OWN STIFLED
SOBS, I HEARD
IT TOO.

IT WAS A WHISPER,
SOFTER THAN
GENTLE THAN A
SUMMER BREEZE,
BUT THE WORDS IT
CAME WERE CLEAR
AND DISTINCT...

IT
WHISPERED...
"IF YOU
SHOULD EVER
HURT MY
DAUGHTER AS
YOU HAVE HURT
ME..."

...THE DEMONS
OF HELL SHALL FEAST
UPON YOUR FLESH!"

"YOU WON'T SEE THEM...
YOU WON'T HEAR THEM
COMING!"
"BUT THEY WILL
DESTROY YOU!"

I SAW NOTHING!
ONLY MY HUSBAND
WRITING IN
AGONY... IN THE
FLESH RIPPING
ITSELF FROM HIS
BONES!

IT WAS HORRIBLE...
BUT MY FATHER
WAS RIGHT!

WE NEVER SAW
THEM, OR HEARD
THEM...!

AND YET, I WONDERED... WAS IT MY FATHER'S LOVE
OR MY FATHER'S HATRED THAT KILLED BYRON?

OR WAS IT BYRON HIMSELF
WHO BROUGHT ABOUT HIS
OWN END, BY BELIEVING
IN A GYPSY CURSE!

I HAVE LIVED WITH THAT
QUESTION EVER SINCE.
IT HAVEN'T BEEN EASY,

...BUT SANDOR HAS
HELPED ME TO FORGET!

Lucky Stiff



HARRY HAD PROMISED HIMSELF HE WOULDN'T **LOOK** ON. HE MIGHT SNEAK A QUICK, TITFUL, GLANCE NOW AND THEN, BUT HE WOULDN'T **STARE** THE WAY THOSE OTHER VULTURES DID.

IT ALMOST MADE HARRY **ASUMED** TO BE A **MAN**. HOW THEY COULD BE SO **BLATANT** SO **COARSE** ABOUT THEIR UGLY LONGINGS WAS BEYOND HIS **COMPREHENSION**.

OF COURSE, HE ADMITTED TO HIMSELF, HE **DID** HAVE QUITE A **BODY**. BUT THAT WAS NO EXCUSE FOR CARRYING ON LIKE SPECTATORS AT A **BURLESQUE** SHOW!



IS THAT THE NEW FILE CLERK? SHE DOESN'T LOOK BRIST SHOUGH TO OPEN THE **DRAWERS**!

THAT'S NOT BEING **FAIR**, MARGE. I'M SURE SHE'S BEEN IN A LOT OF **DRAWERS** IN HER TIME.



HER NAME WAS **LINDA CRABEN**. THAT WAS ALL HARRY **ADDED**. BY 5:05 A.M. THE OTHER MEN HAD ROUNDED OUT HER ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND VITAL STATISTICS, BUT HARRY WAS CONTENT JUST KNOWING HER **NAME**.

AT LEAST HE **TOLD** HIMSELF HE WAS CONTENT.

MR. NADA,
COULD YOU
HELP ME,
PLEASE?

CHIVALRY HAD ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF HARRY NADA'S WEAKNESSES. HIS MOTHER HAD TAUGHT HIM TO BE A GENTLEMAN ABOVE ALL ELSE, AND HARRY ALWAYS TOOK HIS MOTHER'S ADVICE TO HEART.



YES, CHIVALRY WAS HARRY'S WEAKNESS, AND LINDA CRAVEN WAS AN EXPERT AT FINDING WEAKNESSES IN MEN.

THE MEN TELL ME YOU'RE AWFULLY GOOD WITH FIGURES, MR. NADA, I HAVE SOME HERE THAT NEED HANDLING, AND I WONDERED IF...



HIS VOICE TANGLED OFF INTO A MEANINGLESS MONTAGE OF SOUNDS AND SYLLABLES, AND HARRY UNDERSTOOD NONE OF IT!

NOR DID HE UNDERSTAND WHY HE LOOSENED HIS TIE AND UNBUTTONED HIS COLLAR... AN INFORMALITY WHICH HE USUALLY CONSIDERED UNTHINKABLE!



HARRY NADA HAD WORKED FOR CLAYMORE AND CLOUT FOR THE PAST NINE YEARS!

BUT WHEN LINDA LODGED HERSELF IN HIS LAP, HE FOUND IT HARD TO RECALL EVEN THEIR SIMPLEST PROCEDURES...

PERHAPS I'M KEEPING YOU FROM YOUR OWN WORK. WHY DON'T YOU DROP BY MY PLACE LATER... AND YOU CAN TEACH ME SOME OF THE BASICS.



THE DAY HAD SEEMED UNUSUALLY LONG TO HARRY. USUALLY, THE HOURS SPED BY. FOR HARRY FOUND A SENSE OF IDENTITY IN WORK, BUT TODAY WAS DECIDEDLY DIFFERENT.

HARRY KNEW FEW WOMEN IN HIS LIFE OUTSIDE OF HIS MOTHER... AND HIS IMAGINATION!

STRANGE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR LINDA TO LIVE IN!



FATE MAY WELL BE THE MOST **PROFOUNDING** WORD IN MAN'S VOCABULARY. EACH MOMENT OF A MAN'S LIFE PRESENTS A **DECISION**... A DECISION THAT WILL AFFECT OR ALTER ALL **FUTURE** BEHAVIOR. LOOK BACK ON ANY GIVEN MOMENT IN TIME AND **IMAGINE** WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU HAD MADE **THE OTHER CHOICE**.

CASE IN POINT: **AMBERY ARCADE**. IF BY SOME GLIMMER OF **IMPAUSE** OR **DIVINE INTERVENTION** HARRY HAD MADE THE **ALTERNATE CHOICE**... **THIS** WOULD HAVE OCCURRED.



LINDA,
IT'S ME...
HARRY NADA!
ARE YOU HOME?

ONE MOMENT,
HARRY DEAR, I'LL
BE READY FOR
YOU IN A SEC.



HARRY WAITED PATIENTLY, RECALLING HIS MOTHER'S ADMONITION THAT IT WOULD BE ITS **OWN** REWARD. ACTUALLY, PATIENCE WAS ONE OF THOSE MINOR FRUSTRATIONS OF LIFE THAT HARRY HAD LEARNED TO **ACCEPT** WITH RESIGNING **RESIGNATION**.

HARRY WAITED...
AND AS HE WAITED
HE HEARD
SOUNDS...

THOSE
QUEER ADVICES!
SOUNDS LIKE...
... LIKE A
MOB OF...



CATS!



HARRY HATED CATS. THEY WERE **WILE**,
FILTHY ANIMALS WHO DID **NOTHING** ALL
DAY BUT LAZY AROUND AND BE
INDEPENDENT.

CATS SEEMED TO GRIEVE HIS
FEELINGS TOWARD THEM.
WHEN THEY SAW HARRY THEY
SCRATCHED, **CLAWED**, AND
BIT AT HIM...

WORST OF ALL, THEY
MADE HIM **SNEEZE**.





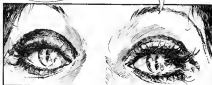
HARRY HAD ALWAYS KNOWN THAT THE WOMEN WHO WORKED FOR CLAYMORE AND CLOUT WERE A BIT CATTY...

...BUT LINDA'S PETS SEEMED TO BE TAKING THINGS TOO FAR...



MY PETS ALWAYS, HARRY, THEY NEED MEAT! LOTS OF IT!

AND YOU ARE THE LEAST DESERVING TO LIVE!



BUT YOU...YOU HAVE DEVOTED YOUR LIFE TO RUNNING AWAY FROM INSTINCT! WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE IF YOU DIE... YOU HAVE NEVER REALLY LIVED!

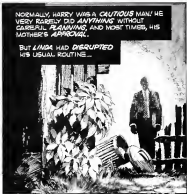


OF COURSE, HARRY HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THE ALTERNATIVE FATE HAD IN STORE FOR HIM HAD HE NOT ACTED AS HE DID.



NORMALLY, HARRY WAS A CAUTIOUS MAN! HE VERY RARELY DID ANYTHING WITHOUT CAREFUL PLANNING, AND MOST TIMES, HIS MOTHER'S APPROVAL.

BUT LINDA HAD DISRUPTED HIS USUAL ROUTINE...

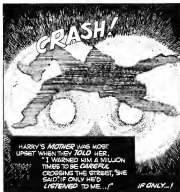


...SO HE DID SOMETHING TOTALLY AWAY TO HIS HABITS.

HE CROSSED THE STREET WITHOUT LOOKING CAREFULLY IN EITHER DIRECTION.



CRASH!



HARRY'S MOTHER WAS MOST UPSET WHEN THEY TOLD HER. "I WARNED HIM A MILLION TIMES TO BE CAREFUL CROSSING THE STREET," SHE SAID. "IF ONLY HE'D LISTENED TO ME..."

IF ONLY...

TWO WORDS THAT MIGHT HAVE CHANGED A MAN'S DESTINY FOR BETTER OR WORSE! HARRY NACK WAS DEAD...

BUT IF HE HAD KNOWN THE ALTERNATIVE... HE MIGHT HAVE CONSIDERED HIMSELF A VERY...LUCKY STIFF.





HORRORS COME FROM VARIOUS
LOCATIONS, SOME WELL KNOWN,
OTHERS NOT SO WELL KNOWN.
COME BACK WITH US TO THE YEAR
1926, ONE OF THE LATTER,
ONE THAT CAME...

OUT OF THE NAMELESS CITY





"IT ALL STARTED IN THE THIRD ACT OF THAT SILLY MELODRAMA WE WERE DOING SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. IT HAD THE SCENE WITH DENNIS, YOU REMEMBER DENNIS, WHAT'LY?"



"STILL...WE TRIED TO COVER FOR HIM, DIDN'T WE, MYRTLE? BUT THEN..."

"THAT IS NOT DEAD WHICH CAN ETERNAL LIE, AND WITH STRANGE EGGS EVEN DEATH MAY DIE!"

"THERE, WARDEN... YOUR TRANSLATION!"

"IT WAS HOPELESS! WHO COULD AD-LIB AFTER SOMETHING LIKE THAT...?"

"DAMN YOU, GIVE A JERK ACTOR A BREAK..."

"YOU ASKED FOR A TRANSLATION..."

"...WELL, YOU GOT ONE!"

THUD!



"SO MUCH FOR THIS PLAY."

"DON'T WORRY. THE BIG CHANCE WILL COME...FOR BOTH OF US."

"IT MAY HAVE ALREADY COME... FOR ME. I HAVE A LETTER...BACK IN THE HOTEL ROOM..."

"THEN YOU TOLD ME OF YOUR INVITATION. WE TALKED... BUT THERE WAS NOTHING TO SAY."

"I SAT AND THOUGHT FOR MANY HOURS. A DARK THEATER STIMULATES IMAGINATION..."



"...YOU BEGIN TO HEAR ALL SORTS OF THINGS."

SUDDENLY
DENNIS
CAME IN!



THE NERVE
YOU HAVE... COMING
BACK HERE AFTER
RUINING OUR PERFORMANCE!
I OUGHT TO POUND
YOU SILLY!

VAUGHN!



I KNOW
HOW YOU FEEL...
GIVE ME A
MINUTE TO
EXPLAIN.

YOUR PART
WAS EASY...
JUST A SIMPLE
TRANSLATION...



...AND THAT'S WHAT
YOU GOT... A TRANS-
LATION... OF WHAT THESE
SYMBOLS REALLY MEAN.
YOU MUST TELL ME
WHERE YOU GOT THEM.

THEY'RE TOO
COMPLEX FOR YOU
TO HAVE JUST
MADE UP.

YOU INTRIGUE
ME. LET ME GET
MY COAT.



MY UNCLE
ANDREW IS AN
ARCHEOLOGIST.
HE RECENTLY RETURNED
FROM ARABIA WITH
A BOATLOAD OF
ARTIFACTS.

ARABIA...
IT BEGINS TO
TELL.

I TOOK
THE SYMBOLS
FROM ONE
OF THE URNS
HE FOUND!



I KNOW MY
UNCLE WOULD BE
INTERESTED IN FINDING
OUT WHY YOU CASUALLY
READ A LANGUAGE HE'S
BEEN STRUGGLING
OVER FOR MONTHS.





DON'T LET THE RITZY BUILDING GET YOU OFF... A MUSEUM OFFICIAL IS LETTING MY UNCLE USE IT BECAUSE HE EXPECTS A LOT OF PUBLICITY.



UNCLE ANDREW...

VAUGHN, MY BOY... WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THIS CLOISTERED CELL AT SUCH AN HOUR?

PERHAPS MY FRIEND CAN EXPLAIN BETTER THAN I CAN.

THIS ROCK WAS TAKEN FROM YOUR EXCAVATION? ALLOW ME TO TRANSLATE...!

"THE ELDER GODS HAVE PUT THE DAMNED TO SLEEP...!"



YOU READ FROM THAT SLAB? BUT IT'S IN AN UNKNOWN TONGUE...

...THAT I HAVE TRANSLATED FOR YOU.

...TRANSLATED??



THESE, FOR INSTANCE ARE THE SYMBOLS THAT VAUGHN COPIED... PRINTED ON THE PROP COFFIN...

...AND WHICH I FLABBERGASTED THE AUDIENCE BY READING... "THAT IS NOT DEAD WHICH CAN ETERNAL LIE..."



"...AND WITH STRANGE EGGS DEATH MAY DIE."

GOOD LORD! THAT CORRELATES EXACTLY WITH THE SMALL BITS I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TRANSLATE!

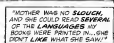


DON'T STOP, MAN...

...THERE'S THE REST OF THE SARCOPHAGUS... AND THE MANY SLABS AND ARTIFACTS AROUND THE ROOM!



AFTER THE RAPID **TRANSLATION** OF THE STRANGE **SCRIPT** CAME **ARRANGING** THE WORDS INTO SOME **MEANINGFUL ORDER...**



"THEY WERE BOTH
EVENLY **MATCHED**
WHEN IT CAME TO
SCREAMING SO,
FOR **AWHILE**.
ANYWAY, I
DIDN'T SEE
ANY MORE OF
THE **STRANGE**
BOOKS."



"THEN, ALMOST ON
CUE, FATHER RECEIVED
ASSISTANCE IN
THE PERSON OF
CAPTAIN ABNER
WHATELY, A
DISTANT RELATIVE.
HIS **PERSONALITY**
WAS SUCH THAT EVEN
MY **FORCEFUL**
MOTHER HAD TO
BACK DOWN..."



"WITH MOTHER
WILTING UNDER
THE **FORCE** OF
HIS FREQUENT
VISITS, MY
EDUCATION
RESUMED. **UNCLE**
ABNER, AS I WAS
TOLD TO CALL
HIM, TOOK OVER
MY TRAINING
PERSONALLY."



"HE SEEMED
ESPECIALLY
DELIGHTED WHEN
I WOULD BLURT
OUT **INSTINCTIVE**
INFORMATION
WHICH I HAD
NOT BEEN
TAUGHT."



"WITH THIS NEWS, MOTHER BECAME A **RESURGENT**
FORCE IN THE HOUSEHOLD. HER FINAL CLASH WITH
FATHER WAS THE **WORST!**"



"THEY FOUGHT.. AND SOMEBOW, A **FIRE** WAS STARTED.
THE HOUSE WENT UP IN **FLAMES!**"





...COULD YOU
TRANSLATE
THEIR
INSCRIPTIONS
ALSO?

A
COMPLETE
VIEW OF THIS
STRANGE ARABIAN
MYTHOLOGY
WOULD BE MOST
USEFUL TO
SCIENCE.

I'D BE MOST
HAPPY, SIR!



THERE!
YOU HAVE **SOME**
EXPLANATION OF
MY BEHAVIOR
ANYHOW,
WAUGHN....!

I'LL PASS
IT ALONG
TO THE **CAST**
AND **CREW**...
BUT AN
APOLOGY
WOULD ALSO
HELP.



I UNDERSTAND,
BUT **NOT** TODAY. I
HAVE **MUCH** TO **THINK**
ABOUT. THAT TALK
STIRRED MY
MIND...!

LATER
THEN.



"IF ONLY I'D STAYED
WITH HIM, MYRTLE..."

MY WHOLE
PAST...OPENED TO
ME IN A **FLASH!**
WHERE DO I FIND
THE ANSWER?

I **KNOW**
WHAT YOU'RE
THINKING, DENNIS!
MAYBE I CAN
HELP YOU...!



YOU!

AYE, DENNIS
DID YOU **REALLY**
THINK I WAS
GONE?

BUT I DIDN'T LEARN ABOUT THIS
REUNION UNTIL MUCH LATER!



"YOU REMEMBER HOW BUSY THE NEXT
DAYS WERE, MYRTLE. DENNIS NEVER
DID SHOW UP. WE **REPLACED** HIM."

WAUGHN...
PHONE!



DENNIS!
WHERE HAVE
YOU **BEEN**?





ONLY HERE WAITS THE
MACHINERY THAT CAN BRING
BACK THE MASTERS... THE
MYSTICAL EQUIPMENT THAT
ONLY THEIR OFFSPRING
CAN OPERATE!

Y-YES... I AM
HERE... I KNOW THIS
PLACE! IT'S ALL FAMILIAR
TO ME... I EVEN KNOW
WHERE THE MACHINERY
IS!

WE'VE WAITED
TWO THOUSAND
YEARS FOR THIS! PULL
THE LEVER, BOY...
FULL-FILL YOUR
DESTINY!

NO YOU DON'T
DENNIS!

BAM!

YOU...
SHOT
HIM...!

HIS
DELAYING A STAGE
SHOW IS ONE
THING...

...BUT KILLING
MY UNCLE JUST TO
DESTROY HIS NOTES
IS QUITE ANOTHER!

WE'VE BEEN
DEFEATED! BUT
ALL IS NOT LOST!
I'LL LEAVE NOW...
TO RETURN IN
THE FUTURE...

...AND PLAY
MY WINNING
CARD," HE
SAID!

HE'S
PROBABLY
CALLED THE
POLICE
BY NOW!

WHY TELL
ME THIS
ABSURD STORY?



BECAUSE I DIDN'T
REALLY SHOOT DENNIS
FOR KILLING MY UNCLE. I
WAS NEVER CLOSE ENOUGH
TO HIM TO INSPIRE SUCH
EMOTION. I KILLED HIM
BECAUSE I HAD DONE
SOME *CHECKING*....



THE THEATER OUT
EAST THAT OFFERED
YOU THAT PART...
HAS BEEN *CLOSED* FOR
SIX MONTHS.

YOU'RE *LEAVING*
TOWN BECAUSE YOU
DON'T WANT ME TO
KNOW THAT YOU'RE
GOING TO *HAVE*
A *BABY*...



...DENNIS'
BABY!



HOPE YOU
HAD A
PLEASANT
STAY, SIR.

SO-SO. I'VE
A FEW *ENDS* TO
TIE UP ON MY
NEXT VISIT.



WHEN
WILL THAT
BE, SIR?
WOULD
YOU CARE
TO MAKE
A *RESER-*
VATION?

PERHAPS
IF YOU'LL
HOLD IT FOR
TWENTY
YEARS...

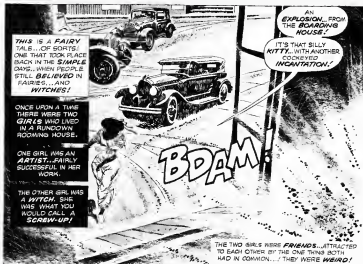


... WHEN I
RETURN TO SEE MY
AS YET *UNBORN*
GRANDNEPHEW!



IN A DRAB HOTEL ROOM IN THE YEAR 1926,
TWO PEOPLE LIE *DEAD*...AS DOES, PERHAPS,
THE *HOPES* OF ABNER WHATELY.

AND YET... SOMEWHERE IN THE ARABIAN
DESERT... THE NAMELESS CITY STILL *STANDS*.
FOR IT IS *ETERNAL*, AS ARE THOSE WHO
DWELT THERE. THEY HAVE WAITED *LONG*.
THEY CAN WAIT *LONGER*...!



ON LITTLE CAT FEET!









I'LL NEED A PLACE TO STAY FOR A FEW DAYS... IF YOU'D BE SO KIND AS TO CLEAN UP A LITTLE FOR ME!

COULD YOU HURRY? I'M GOING TO USE THIS AREA FOR AN INCANTATION...

NOT AGAIN? IT TOOK THREE DAYS TO CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR LAST VISIT HERE!

...ONE OF MY BEST EVER!



NOW TO WORK...

FIRST THE POISON...



THEN... SOME OF THE WORLD'S RAREST HERBS AND SPICES... COURTESY OF A WITCH WHO LOOKED IN THE WRONG DIRECTION AT THE RIGHT TIME!



WILL YOU QUIT GRIPPING AND LEAVE? THERE WON'T BE ANY MESS... I'VE DONE THIS INCANTATION BEFORE!

SURE! THAT'S WHAT ALL THE NEO-PHYTES SAY!

SO OKAY, I'M GOING! YOU JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T BLOW THE PLACE UP AGAIN!



...THE MOST UNUSUAL KNOWN!



AND NOW... A MATCH TO MAKE THE MIXTURE...













BEFORE I LEAVE... I MAY AS WELL TROT UP AND SEE WHAT EULALIA'S UP TO WITH THAT WEIRD GUY.



BUT MA'AM... WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO WEAR A DRESS?



IT ISN'T A DRESS, LANCE. IT'S A TOGA... THE KIND OF CLOTHING WORN IN ROMAN TIMES.

WELL, NOW, AH, NOW WHY THEIR COUNTRY FELL APART. REAL MEN WEAR COWBOY BOOTS AND TEN GALLON HATS!



WHY DON'T YOU JUST FORGET ABOUT THAT FOR NOW AND REMEMBER THE MONEY YOU'RE GOING TO GET.

SOMETHING'S MISSING. SOMETHING TO GIVE THE ROMAN TOUCH.

THAT DOES SOUND GOOD.

WAIT! I KNOW JUST THE THING.





TRICK OF THE TIDE

GABRIEL GREAVES' DECEPTIVE WATERFRONT SHACK WAS CHILLY TO MARTHA HOOD! SHE SHIVERED IN THE NIGHT AIR AS SHE LOOKED DOWN AT THE DECAYED BODY ON THE TABLE!

ARE YOU SURE IT'S HIM, MUM?

YES! OH DEAR GOD, YES! IT'S MY HUSBAND!

YOU SAID YOU FOUND HIM FLOATING IN THE RIVER! WHY ARE HIS POCKETS INSIDE OUT?

I'VE BEEN FISHIN' PEOPLE OUT OF THE THAMES FOR YEARS, MUM! THE RIVER DOES MYSTERIOUS THINGS!

I'VE NEVER SEEN A BODY YET WHERE THE POCKETS WASN'T ALL TURNED INSIDE OUT AND EMPTY! YOU MIGHT SAY IT'S A TRICK OF THE TIDE!

MARTHA HOOD KNEW WHERE THE CHILL CAME FROM...IT CAME FROM THIS MAN, GABRIEL GREAVES!



I ASKED BECAUSE
IT WAS **IMPORTANT**
MISTER GREAVES! MY
HUSBAND WAS
CARRYING A LARGE
SUM OF **MONEY** THE
NIGHT HE DIED!

"HE WAS A GOOD MAN, BUT HE WAS
ALSO A **DRUNKARD**! ONCE HE
STARTED DRINKING HE WOULDN'T
STOP!"

"THE NIGHT HE DIED, HE CAME
HOME DRUNK AND DISCOVERED
MY **SAVINGS**!"



"I RAN AFTER HIM, BEGGING
HIM TO COME BACK! HE RAN
DOWN THE STREET, STUFFING
THE **MONEY** IN HIS **POCKETS**!"



"I SAW HIM **SLIP**
AS HE RAN **CROSS**
THE **BRIDGE**!"



"I SAW HIM **FALL**!"

HE NEVER CAME TO THE
SURFACE! WHEN HE
DROWNED, ALL MY
SAVINGS WERE IN HIS
POCKETS! I THOUGHT
PERHAPS YOU--



YOU SEE HIM AS
I **FOUND** HIM, MUM!

BY THE WAY I USUALLY
RECEIVE A **REWARD**
FOR FINDING SOMEONE!

MY POOR HUSBAND WILL
BE BURIED IN A **PAUPER'S**
GRAVE, NO MATTER WHICH
OF US TURNS HIM OVER
TO THE POLICE, MISTER
GREAVES!

AS FOR THE **REWARD**, THE
MONEY HE CARRIED WAS
MY ONLY WAY OF
REWARDING YOU!





SEVERAL NIGHTS
LATER, GABRIEL
GREAVES CHANCED
UPON A
CIRCULAR...!

A HUNDRED
POUNDS REWARD
FOR FINDING
HER! THAT'S
PRETTY HIGH!

IT'S AN UNUSUAL
CASE! SEEMS ONE OF
HER BROTHERS
PICKED A WINNER
IN THE *LOTTERY!*

IT WAS LATE IN THE
EVENING, BUT THIS
WAS *FOUND MONEY!*
AS FAR AS GABRIEL
WAS CONCERNED!

FATE HAD GIVEN HIM
A HEAD START... AND
HE NEVER TURNED
DOWN AN
ADVANTAGE!

SOMETIMES A MAN JUST SEEMS
TO SKIM ALONG THE SURFACE
OF HIS *SUCCESSES!* IT MADE
GABRIEL WANT TO SING!

♪ ROW, ROW,
ROW YOUR BOAT ♪
GENTLY DOWN THE
STREAM... ♪

LIFE SPED BY CARRYING
GABRIEL TOWARD HIS
UNFORESEEN *GIFT!*

MERRILY, MERRILY,
♪ MERRILY, MEY! ♪

STEADY
NOW!

WELL, HELLO AGAIN,
MUM! WHO WOULD
HAVE EVER THOUGHT
A *BAG OF BONES*
LIKE YOU WOULD BE
WORTH PULLING OUT?

THERE YOU ARE, MUM!
YOU FLOAT JUST AS
NICE AS YOU PLEASE
WHILE I ROW US
BACK!



IT WAS A **BEAUTIFUL**
NIGHT FOR A BOAT
RIDE! GABRIEL SING
LIKE AN OFF-KEY
GONDOLIER, THINKING
ONLY OF HIS **REWARD!**



LIFE IS BUT
A DREAM...

GABRIEL GREAVES WAS
A MAN WHO DID NOT
PROSITEN EASILY! BUT
SOMETHING ABOUT THE
WOMAN'S BODY
DISTURBED HIM...



HOME
AT LAST,
MUM!

WAS IT THE WATER-LODSED
CLOTHING? WAS THAT
WHY THE BODY FELT SO
STRANGER?



WHAT'S THE
MATTER HERE? THIS
DOESN'T FEEL LIKE
NO DEAD WOMAN!



SHE FEELS
ALII--NO!
NO!!



EEYAAAAH!

AAAAAAAAAYH!

THAT SCREAM
CAME FROM THE
WHARF!
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE
BEING MURDERED!

A... A MAN...
AND A
WOMAN...

BOTH DEAD... BUT
HOW? THERE'S NO ONE
ELSE HERE, AND THE
MURDERER COULDN'T
HAVE GOTTEN OFF THE
BOAT WITHOUT BEING
SEEN!

CHOKES!
THE MAN'S
BEEN TORN
APART!

A-AND I DON'T
UNDERSTAND IT!
THIS WOMAN'S
HANDS ARE RED
WITH BLOOD!

SHE LOOKS
LIKE SHE'S BEEN
DEAD FOR DAYS!
B-BUT SHE'S STILL
WARM AS THOUGH
SHE JUST... DIED!

IF MARTHA HOOD COULD SPEAK, SHE
MIGHT HAVE CALLED IT A TRICK OF THE TIDE...

THE TIDE THAT SOMEHOW, MYSTERIOUSLY
KEPT HER ALIVE FOR DAYS.

AS IT WAS, THE POLICE MERELY
REFERRED TO IT AS ANOTHER
UNSOLVED HOMICIDE.

SCREAMING YOUR HEAD OFF BECAUSE YOU'RE MISSING...

VAMPIRELLA

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16 SNAP-TOGETHER PLASTIC PARTS! MOVEABLE ARMS & LEGS!

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SHE'S FANG-TASTIC!



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VAMPIRELLA



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